Arrests made regarding attack on American Information Centre at Kolkata

†1823. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested by the police besides Farhan Malik alias Aftab Ansari who has claimed the responsibility of the attack on the American Information Centre in Kolkata;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of Government officials and Police personnel have also been found involved in issuing a passport to Aftab; and

(c) if so, whether the investigating agencies have got any vital clues in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) As per information furnished by the State Government of West Bengal, so far seven persons have been arrested in connection with the attack on US Information Centre, Kolkata.

(b) and (c) As per information furnished by the State Government of Bihar, five persons including some government officials, found *prima-facie* involved in connection with issuing passport to Farhan Malick have been arrested by the Police as part of the ongoing investigations.

Increasing ethnic conflict atmosphere of fear in NER

†1824. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development at work has been hindered much due to increasing ethnic conflict/atmosphere of fear in North-Eastern parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the incidents of kidnapping,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

demands for ransom and murders of employees belonging to governmental/non-governmental companies engaged in developmental work are continuously increasing; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to develop the people of that place mentally to bring them back to the mainstream of nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Ethnic conflict/atmosphere of fear is one of the factors acting as a hindrance in execution of developmental works in the North-Eastern region.

(b) and (c) There are reports about abduction for ransom and extortion from people engaged in developmental work. The State Governments in the North East have taken step to check the extortion by various outfits from officers/individuals by deploying plain clothes security personnel at important offices and payment of salaries of government employees by cheques etc. and to keep a check on employees who are alleged to have helped the Under Ground outfit in extortions. Many terrorists were arrested by police and booked under relevant provisions of law. Other steps like deployment of additional armed police personnel and regular patrolling/combing activities by the police and para-military forces are being undertaken frequently to curb their activities.

Career promotion scheme for CRPF constables

†1825. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the constables of CRPF, who have completed 12 years of service or more have been promoted/benefited under Assured Career Promotion Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the Government propose to provide benefit/promotion

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.